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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,117	12/14/2001	Joachim Guderian	GUDERIAN ET AL (PCT)	1553
25889	7590	10/28/2003		EXAMINER
WILLIAM COLLARD COLLARD & ROE, P.C. 1077 NORTHERN BOULEVARD ROSLYN, NY 11576				TOOMER, CEPHIA D
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1714	

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/018,117	GUDERIAN ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Cephia D. Toomer	1714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,8,9,13,14,19,20,22-24,26 and 27 is/are rejected.  
7) Claim(s) 3,5,7,10-12,15-18,21 and 25 is/are objected to.  
8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.  
12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
    a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
        1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
        2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
        3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
    \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
    a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.  
15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)      4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)      5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.      6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is in response to the amendment filed July 18, 2003 in which claims 1-27 were amended. The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn in view of the amendments to the claims.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 4416576 for the reasons of record.

Applicant argues that DE dries the shaped article at a temperatures of 150 – 250 °C for 10 to 25 minutes, whereas the present invention dries the shaped article at a temperature of 40 – 150°C for 30 minutes to 12 hours.

Applicant's higher temperature range is the same as the lower temperature range of DE. Therefore, the temperature ranges overlap. With respect to the length of drying time, 30 minutes is close enough to the 25 minutes of drying time taught by DE that one skilled in the art would expect that the properties of the shaped articles would be similar, if not the same.

One skilled in the art would also expect that the shaped article of DE would allow low-volatile compounds and water to escape during the drying process, thus causing the shaped article to become mechanically fixed.

2. Claims 3, 5, 7, 10-12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art fails to teach that the shaped articles are dried as a gas stream is passed over or that the shaped article is dried in a three-zone torque tube. The prior art fails to teach that an aggregate is added to the binding agent or that the binding agent is molasses, coal tar, wood charcoal tar, bitumen and/or an inorganic gel. The prior art also fails to teach that the binders are homogeneously mixed with each other before being added to that carbon-bearing material.

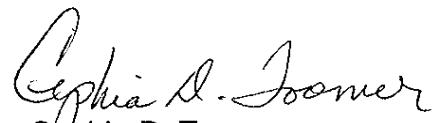
**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cephia D. Toomer whose telephone number is 703-308-2509. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 703-306-2777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Cephia D. Toomer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1714

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